



## OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

PO BOX 202501  
HELENA MT 59620-2501  
[www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov)  
(406) 444-3095  
(888) 231-9393  
(406) 444-0169 (TTY)

Linda McCulloch  
Superintendent

# Significant Reduction in High School Meth Use Summary Report

## Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 2007 Montana High School [www.opi.mt.gov/yrbs](http://www.opi.mt.gov/yrbs) September 18, 2007

The 2007 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Study (YRBS) reports meth use among high school students has decreased by 66% since 1999. In 1999, 13.5% of Montana high school students reported using meth one or more times in their lifetimes. The 2007 YRBS reports this has now dropped to 4.6%.

### The Methamphetamine Question

Since 1999, the following question regarding methamphetamine use has been asked on the Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey:

*During your life, how many times have you used methamphetamines (also called speed, crystal, crank, or ice)?*

- Trend data reflects a significant decrease in meth use among Montana high school students since 1999. Meth use among high school students as decreased by 66% since 1999.

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007
Percentage of students who used methamphetamines one or more times during their life	13.5%	12.6%	9.3%	8.3%	4.6%

Source: 2007 Montana YRBS Trend Analysis Report

- In 2007, 4.6% of Montana high school students reported using meth one or more times during their life. Meth use among different high school demographic groups is:

Female – 4.7%

Male – 4.5%

9<sup>th</sup> grade – 3.6%

10<sup>th</sup> grade – 3.6%

11<sup>th</sup> grade – 4.0%

12<sup>th</sup> grade – 5.6%

### Youth Risk Behavior Survey Process

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have cooperated in the administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) with Montana schools since 1991. All public schools in Montana with students in grades 9 through 12 were eligible to be selected for inclusion in the sample. Fifty schools were randomly selected with probability proportional to enrollment. Forty-seven schools elected to participate in the random sample and 81 percent of the students in randomly selected classes in these schools volunteered to participate in the survey.

Students completed a self-administered, anonymous, 90-item questionnaire. The weighted data results of the 4,030 high school students in the random sample can be used to make inferences concerning the priority health-risk behaviors of all high school students in Montana. The survey was administered during second-period classes on February 26, 27 or 28, 2007. Additionally, over 10,000 high school students in Montana schools not selected for the random sample voluntarily participated in the YRBS. The weighted demographic characteristics of the random sample are as follows:

Female – 49%  
Male – 51%

9<sup>th</sup> grade – 27%  
10<sup>th</sup> grade – 25%  
11<sup>th</sup> grade – 25%  
12<sup>th</sup> grade – 23%

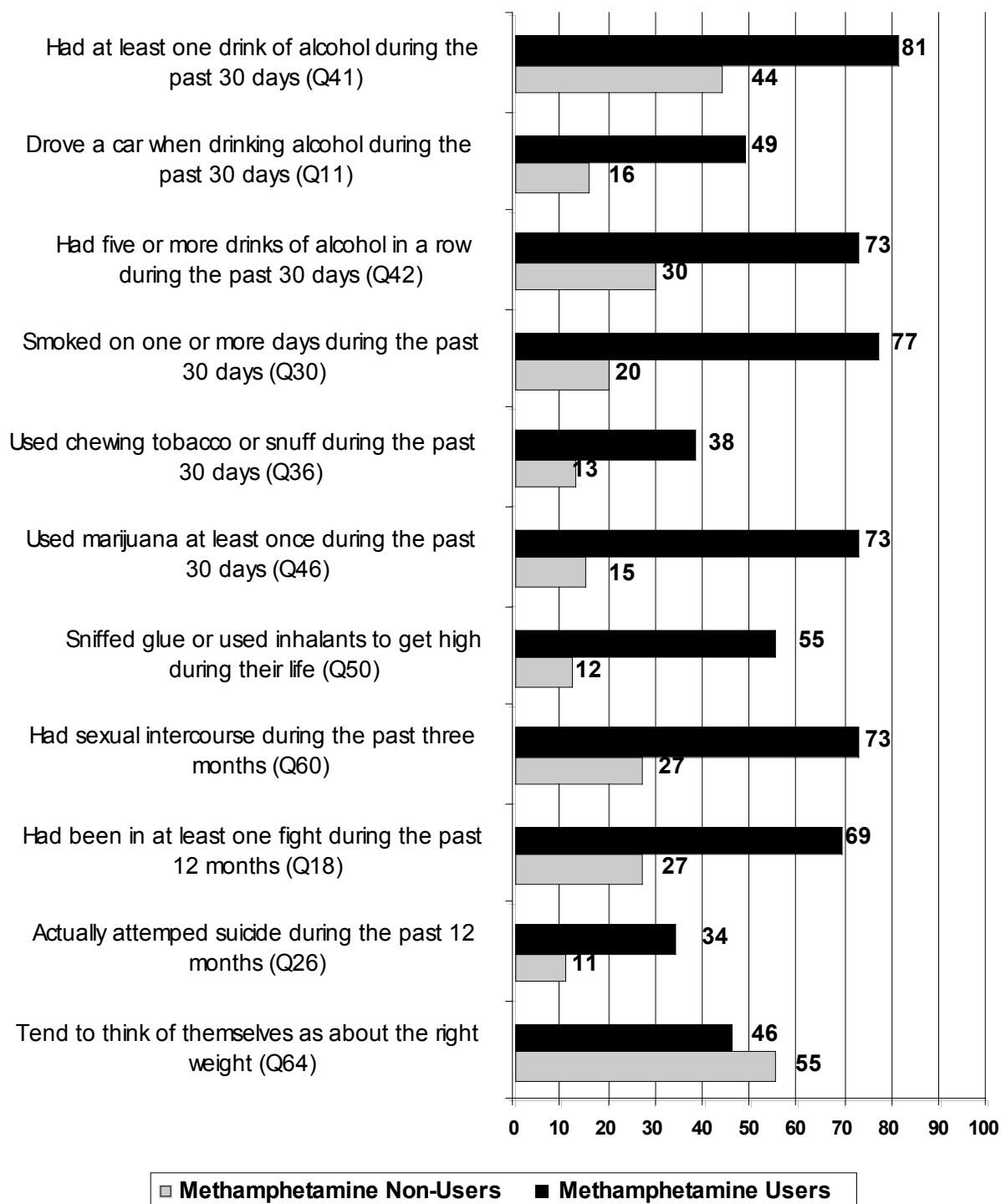
## 2005 Montana YRBS Methamphetamine Report

A special Methamphetamine report produced by the Montana OPI using 2005 YRBS data shows that Montana high school students who have used methamphetamines *are more likely* to have participated in other health risk behaviors. Clearly, Montana youth who use methamphetamines also place themselves at higher risk for negative health consequences from other undesirable behaviors than youth who do not use methamphetamines. This association exists in every behavior risk category examined and is indicative of the unhealthy and eventually costly lifestyles of the methamphetamine users. These risk behaviors are shown in the following table and graph.

Health Risk Behavior	Methamphetamine Users	Methamphetamine Non-Users
Had at least one drink of alcohol during the past 30 days	80.9%	43.7%
Drove a car when drinking alcohol during the past 30 days	48.9%	15.9%
Had 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row during the past 30 days	72.9%	29.8%
Smoked on one or more days during the past 30 days	77.0%	20.4%
Used chewing tobacco or snuff during the past 30 days	38.3%	13.2%
Used marijuana at least once during the past 30 days	72.5%	15.3%
Sniffed glue or used inhalants to get high during their life	54.6%	11.5%
Had sexual intercourse during the past three months	72.9%	26.6%
Had been in at least one fight during the past 12 months	68.7%	26.5%
Actually attempted suicide during the past 12 months	34.0%	10.8%
Tend to think of themselves as about the right weight	46.4%	55.0%

Source: 2005 YRBS Methamphetamine Report, OPI

**Percentage of students that . . .**



Bar graph (previous page) statements:

- 81% of meth users have had a drink of **alcohol** in the past 30 days, compared to 44% of the Montana students who do not use meth.
- 49% of meth users have **driven a car while drinking alcohol** in the past 30 days, whereas 16% of students who do not use meth have done so.
- 73% of meth users have participated in **binge drinking** in the past 30 days, compared to 30% of the meth non-users.
- 77% of meth users are **current smokers**, compared to 20% of students who do not use meth.
- 38% of meth users currently use **smokeless tobacco**, whereas 13% of students who do not use meth do so.
- 73% of meth users have used **marijuana** in the past 30 days, compared to 15% of meth non-users.
- 55% of meth users compared to only 12% of meth non-users have **sniffed glue or used inhalants** in their life.
- Students who use meth are more **sexually active** than students who do not use meth – 73% of meth users have had sexual intercourse during the past three months, compared to only 27% of Montana high school students who have not used meth.
- 69% of meth users have reported being in at least one **fight** during the past 12 months compared to 27% of the students who do not use meth.
- 34% of meth users have **attempted suicide** whereas 11% of Montana high school students who have not used meth have attempted suicide.
- 55% of Montana students who do not use meth tend to **think of themselves as about the right weight**; whereas only 46% of the meth users think of themselves as about the right weight.